

VOLUNTEER

news

A Newsletter for the Shepherd Auxiliary & Volunteers

September
2017

Getting to Know Chief Operating Officer Chet Bhasin

Chet Bhasin, born in Short Hills, New Jersey, was introduced to the healthcare field at a young age. His father moved to New Jersey on a physician shortage visa in the 70s, and Chet's mother followed shortly after his father began his residency. Chet's father's first job out of training was in the Chicago suburbs, which is where he moved his family, which included Chet, his mother and his younger sister.

During high school, Chet was very active in tennis, youth groups and speaking events. When Chet started college, he was originally interested in dentistry, but as he got older, he realized he was more interested in finance. Unfortunately, when Chet graduated from college many finance careers dried up due to the economic turmoil of 9/11. Chet eventually began his career as a buyer for Bloomingdales in New York City, which is what started to pique his interest in management in healthcare facilities. Chet realized he didn't necessarily have to be a physician or work in a medical role. Instead, he could bring that management component to healthcare.

Prior to his role at Shepherd, Chet served as the director of back/spine, orthopedics and post-acute services at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas. He described how Shepherd and Texas Health Presbyterian were similar in culture, meaning that both facilities strive for excellence in compassion and integrity. Chet learned about Shepherd by working in the healthcare field, where he was often told stories by patients and/or physicians about the "Ivy League of Rehab," as he calls it.

As the COO of Shepherd Center, Chet's duties include clinical programming, and a synthesis between growth, products, patient outcomes and much more. As the organization grows, Chet is here to assist our CEO, Sarah Morrison. A few of Chet's goals while he serves as COO include the following: 1) maintain and improve employee engagement, 2) maintain and improve patient engagement, 3) look for different programs to offer as legislative changes and 4) decrease finance/expenses without compromising quality and satisfaction.

Now, on to the fun stuff! The hardest part of Chet's transition from Chicago to Dallas, and then to Atlanta, was no longer having real deep dish pizza and dealing with the traffic; however, Chet enjoys the scenery while driving. He loves seeing the hills instead of the usual flat lands of Chicago and Dallas. During his free time, Chet enjoys being his wife and two sons.

Since moving to Atlanta, every weekend, he and his wife take their boys to do something fun and/or educational. One of Chet's favorite hobbies is traveling. He's been to more than 30 countries and his three favorite were Hong Kong – for the blend of beach and city life, Peru – for not being overly commercialized and Ireland – for the amazing food and sight-seeing.

Chet is a nice, friendly individual – professionally and personally. He works hard, but he also knows how to enjoy life. Shepherd Center is glad to have him as our new chief operating officer. We expect a lot of great things to come to Shepherd because of Chet's work ethic and personality.



Above: Chet Bhasin, chief operating officer of Shepherd Center.



from the AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Dear Auxiliary and Peach Corps Members,

With summer behind us and the busy fall season just around the corner, "The Year of the Member" is well underway! The Auxiliary and Peach Corps calendars are brimming with fun and meaningful events designed to serve Shepherd patients and their families throughout the year. There are so many ways in which YOU can be involved, and your support is ALWAYS needed and is ALWAYS appreciated!!

First, I would like to thank those of you who worked alongside Paula Hope, our T-Shirt sale committee chairman (pchope@bellsouth.net), to make our T-Shirt sale in late August such a success: Barbara McArdle, Mary Kay Howard, Marla Bennett, Lois Puckett, Dianne Key and Elizabeth Cooper. Thank you SO much, ladies!! I would also like to thank those of you who attended the Auxiliary's Summer Soirée Membership Drive on August 26. Linda Morris, our hospitality chairman (lindasmorris@comcast.net) and Ruth Langsfeld (rlangsfeld@gmail.com), our president-elect, worked very hard to plan a beautiful evening for us!! It was a well attended and fun event, and it was exciting to see so many new faces that night who are eager to be joining the Auxiliary!! Our goal is to add 40 new members this year, so please spread the word about the joy, fun, and importance of the Shepherd Center Auxiliary to your friends!

In the fall we can look forward to several fun activities! The Sunshine Committee, headed by Karen Martin (kjmartin80@bellsouth.net) and Jeannie Worlock (wsingingj@aol.com), will convene to put together their September project. Lori Bowen (bowenlr1234@gmail.com) and Alex Karamanolis (alexplustwins@aol.com), our Peach Corps chairmen, are planning the fabulous Peach Corps Cookout to be held at Shepherd Center on October 22. Meanwhile, Carole Davenport (chdavenport56@gmail.com), our \$5 Jewelry/Scrub sale chairman, is putting together the much anticipated \$5 Jewelry Sale on October 17 and 18! Later in October, the Sunshine Committee will meet again to decorate the ever popular mini pumpkins for patients! Of course, October would not be complete without the Auxiliary's Halloween Bake Sale. Lois Puckett (Queenevry@gmail.com), our Special Projects chairman, will be collecting your spooky and delicious baked goods for the sale!

Again, your help with any (or all!) of these events is so VERY MUCH appreciated!! Feel free to contact me at Elaine.carlos@natdistco.com, or any of the ladies mentioned above, or Alex Seblatnigg, Director of Volunteer Services at Alex_seblatnigg@shepherd.org for information on how to be involved!!

Of course, Pecans on Peachtree™ are sold YEAR-ROUND via internet, and ALWAYS make a great gift for birthdays, holidays, corporate gifts, hostess gifts, thank-you gifts...!!! Pecans on Peachtree are so easy to order online, they are shipped directly, and BEST OF ALL, your generosity benefits Shepherd Center patients and their families!!!

I look forward to seeing you during the fall!! I am SO grateful for you, and for your AMAZING generosity of time, talent and treasure!! THANK YOU for all you that you do to bring JOY to the Shepherd patients and their families!!

With fondness and appreciation,

Elaine

Elaine Carlos

Elaine.Carlos@natdisto.com

Family-Friendly Movies Wanted!

Help us build our movie collection! We are always looking for recent, popular DVDs (rated G, PG or PG-13). These movies can be checked out by our families for their enjoyment. Donations can be delivered to Volunteer Services.



Volunteer Spotlight: Beryl Waters

Most of us think of a typical Brit as intelligent, articulate, gracious, reserved, mannerly, and tenacious with a strong commitment to get any job done very well and with a stiff upper lip. And what does that have to do with Shepherd Center? It's a description of our own Beryl Waters, volunteer extraordinaire!

Beryl was born in Hayes Middlesex in England as the youngest of five children. As a young adult, she managed a law firm and met and married her husband who was a military policeman. Together, they settled in North Carolina, had twin boys and became quite successful farming. After divorcing she went back to school, finished her undergrad degree and MBA, and thoroughly enjoyed her decades as a career woman, working in fields such as cooperative education.

In 1993 Beryl suddenly collapsed at work at East Carolina University with a ruptured brain aneurysm. She survived the surgical repair of the site and had more surgery on a second aneurysm just weeks later. She received no rehabilitation therapy at the time but was able to return to work and to her successful career, for which she is very grateful.

Throughout her working years Beryl has always done extensive volunteering. After moving to Atlanta a few years ago she walked her dog past Shepherd Center and thought of returning to volunteering. She came right in off the street, learned about our opportunities and not long after she was hard at work with her first assignment, doing administrative tasks in our Volunteer Services office.

In the almost two years since then Beryl has added more and more activities to her schedule here. "When you walk in the door here you feel the ambiance of hope here - it wraps around you," she shares. "I am very grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of it." Beryl does filing for our human resource department and applies her love for horticulture by not only tending the plants in our greenhouse every day but also taking care of greenery in our residence center. She covers a multitude of tasks in the Secret Garden regularly to keep the natural environment there healthy and beautiful for the enjoyment of our patients and family members. You may sometimes see Beryl at the welcome desk when she substitutes for others, or possibly on a brain injury floor where she leads support groups for the Brain Injury Peer Visitor Association. Beryl even found a creative outlet for expressing her strong faith in the power of prayer by knitting prayer shawls and hats for patients here. She relishes baking for staff and other volunteers.

To cover all of Beryl's accomplishments in the United Kingdom and the U.S. adequately we would need a much bigger newsletter. We realize that her delight in utilizing all her free time to help others has not only allowed her to blossom in Atlanta, but also to bless a multitude of people at Shepherd Center. For that, we are very grateful!



Above: Beryl Waters works one of her volunteer shifts, watering the plants in the greenhouse at Shepherd.



Above (l-r): Volunteers Beryl Waters and Ann Boriskie read over brain injury awareness packets and brochures.

Bring Us Your Books!

We welcome donations of recent or current fiction or nonfiction, both paperback and hardcover, for our book cart. Proceeds benefit the Auxiliary's Patient Aid Fund. Please bring your donations to Volunteer Services or the Security desk.



spotlight



Above (l-r): Oakwood Temporary Housing employees, Danielle Lee and Ryan Montgomery visit with Jessica Hall during a lunch provided by the company.

Top right (l-r): Richard Mitchell of 2460 Peachtree Apartments serves Ian, Shawn and Mark Raines during a recent family brunch.

Bottom right (l-r): Bennie Walthour enjoys the brunch provided by Embassy Suites Buckhead and hosted by Cindy Mann.



Shepherd Center

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VOLUNTEER news

Sarah Batts, Executive Director, Shepherd Center Foundation
Alex Seblatnigg, Director, Volunteer Services
Alaina Case, Volunteer Services Coordinator
Gale Eckstein, Family Support Services Coordinator
Newsletter Co-editors: Alaina Case and Gale Eckstein

Membership in the Shepherd Center Auxiliary, Peach Corps, SCS, and Junior Committee is open to all volunteers. Members provide ongoing fundraising and volunteer support to Shepherd Center. For more information on becoming a member of one of these groups, contact Alex Seblatnigg at (404) 350-7315 or visit www.shepherd.org.

Shepherd Center's mission is to help people with a temporary or permanent disability caused by injury or disease rebuild their lives with hope, independence, and dignity, advocating for their full inclusion in all aspects of community life while promoting safety and injury prevention.